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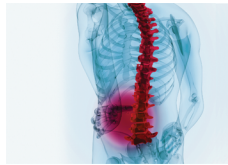
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COVER IMAGE



This issue's cover depicts pain in the lower lumbar region, which highlights pain management, the topic of this inaugural Special Issue of *The Journal of Applied Laboratory Medicine*. The

AACC Academy recently completed evidence-based guidelines that form the framework of this issue. Measurements matter in the pain management field for a myriad of applications including assessment of compliance, overmedication, undermedication and supplementation of pain medications with illegal substances, to list only a few. Over 15 000 died from overdosing on prescribed opioid medications in 2015, and every day we hear or read a news story about the opioid epidemic. This Special Issue topic and content are particularly timely because pain management is a huge public health issue for which laboratory medicine plays an essential and critical role.



JALM TALK podcast coming soon to <http://www.jalm.org>.

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